

CLAIMS

1. A molding for closing a recess extending along joined edges of a pair of vehicle body panels, the recess having opposed side walls divergently extending from an opening between outer surfaces of the panels, comprising:
 - a head portion extending in a first plane and having a width sufficient to close the opening when the molding is installed in the recess;
 - a stem portion extending in a second plane at an angle relative to said first plane and having a width enabling said stem portion to pass through the opening, said head portion being attached at a first longitudinal edge of said stem portion, said stem portion being formed of a first predetermined hardness first plastic material;
 - at least a first leg member formed of a second predetermined hardness second plastic material softer than said first plastic material and extending outwardly from a side of said stem portion for frictional engagement with a side wall of the recess; and
 - a living hinge formed in said at least a first leg member whereby when said stem portion is inserted into the recess through the opening, said living hinge bends to permit said at least a first leg member to deflect toward said stem portion to pass through the opening and spring away from said stem portion when clear of the opening to frictionally engage the side wall of the recess to retain the molding in the recess.
2. The molding according to claim 1 wherein said first plastic material and said second plastic material are different PVC materials.
3. The molding according to claim 1 including a reinforcement member extending longitudinally in at least one of said stem portion and said head portion.

4. The molding according to claim 3 wherein said reinforcement member is formed from one of a metal foil and a metal wire.

5. The molding according to claim 1 wherein said at least a first leg member is hollow having first and second spaced apart wall sections connected together at one end and attached to said stem portion at an opposite end.

6. The molding according to claim 5 wherein said first wall section includes said living hinge.

7. The molding according to claim 5 wherein said second wall section has a textured outer surface for frictionally engaging the side wall of the recess.

8. The molding according to claim 1 including a foam material disposed on an upper surface of said at least a first leg member.

9. The molding according to claim 1 including at least a second leg member formed of said first plastic material and extending outwardly from said stem portion intermediate said at least a first leg member and said head portion, said at least a second leg member pressing said at least a first leg member into the side wall of the recess when the molding is in the recess.

10. The molding according to claim 1 including at least a second leg member formed of said first plastic material and extending outwardly from said stem portion between said at least a first leg member and said head portion, said at least a second leg member snap fitting through the opening during insertion of the molding in the recess.

11. The molding according to claim 1 including at least a second leg member formed of said second plastic material and extending outwardly from

said stem portion intermediate said at least a first leg member and said head portion for frictional engagement with the side wall of the recess.

12. The molding according to claim 11 including at least a third leg member formed of said first plastic material and extending outwardly from said stem portion between said at least a second leg member and said head portion, said at least a third leg member abutting the side wall at the opening when the molding is in the recess.

13. A molding for closing a recess extending along joined edges of a pair of vehicle body panels, the recess having opposed side walls divergently extending from an opening between outer surfaces of the panels, comprising:

- a head portion extending in a first plane and having a width sufficient to close the opening when the molding is installed in the recess;
- a stem portion extending in a second plane at an angle relative to said first plane, said head portion being attached at a first longitudinal edge of said stem portion;
- at least a first leg member extending outwardly from a side of said stem portion; and
- a living hinge formed in said at least a first leg member whereby when said stem portion is inserted into the recess through the opening, said living hinge bends to permit said at least a first leg member to deflect to pass through the opening and spring back when clear of the opening to frictionally engage said stem portion with the side wall of the recess to retain the molding in the recess.

14. A molding for closing a recess extending along joined edges of a pair of vehicle body panels, the recess having opposed side walls divergently extending from an opening between outer surfaces of the panels, comprising:

a head portion extending in a first plane and having a width sufficient to close the opening when the molding is installed in the recess;
a stem portion extending in a second plane at an angle relative to said first plane and having a width enabling said stem portion to pass through the opening, said head portion being attached at a first longitudinal edge of said stem portion, said stem portion being formed of a first predetermined hardness first plastic material;
at least a first pair of leg members formed of a second predetermined hardness second plastic material softer than said first plastic material, said at least a first pair of leg members extending outwardly from opposite sides of said stem portion for frictional engagement with a respective side wall of the recess; and
a living hinge formed in said at least a first pair of leg members whereby when said stem portion is inserted into the recess through the opening, said living hinge bends to permit said at least a first pair of leg members to deflect toward said stem portion to pass through the opening and spring away from said stem portion when clear of the opening to frictionally engage the respective side walls of the recess to retain the molding in the recess.

15. The molding according to claim 14 wherein said first plastic material and said second plastic material are different PVC materials.

16. The molding according to claim 14 including a reinforcement member extending longitudinally in at least one of said stem portion and said head portion.

17. The molding according to claim 16 wherein said reinforcement member is formed from one of a metal foil and a metal wire.

18. The molding according to claim 14 wherein said at least a first pair of leg members are hollow having first and second spaced apart wall sections connected together at one end and attached to said stem portion at an opposite end.

19. The molding according to claim 18 wherein said first wall section includes said living hinge.

20. The molding according to claim 18 wherein said second wall section has a textured outer surface for frictionally engaging the respective side walls of the recess.

21. The molding according to claim 14 including a foam material disposed on an upper surface of said at least a first pair of leg members.

22. The molding according to claim 14 including at least a second pair of leg members formed of said first plastic material and extending outwardly from the opposite sides of said stem portion intermediate said at least a first pair of leg members and said head portion, said at least a second pair of leg members pressing said at least a first pair of leg members into the respective side walls of the recess when the molding is in the recess.

23. The molding according to claim 14 including at least a second pair of leg members formed of said first plastic material and extending outwardly from the opposite sides of said stem portion between said at least a first pair of leg members and said head portion, said at least a second pair of leg members snap fitting through the opening during insertion of the molding in the recess.

24. The molding according to claim 14 including at least a second pair of leg members formed of said second plastic material and extending outwardly from the opposite sides of said stem portion intermediate said at least a first pair of leg members and said head portion for frictional engagement with the respective side walls of the recess.

25. The molding according to claim 24 including at least a third pair of leg members formed of said first plastic material and extending outwardly from the opposite sides of said stem portion between said at least a second pair of leg members and said head portion, said at least a third pair of leg members abutting the respective side walls at the opening when the molding is in the recess.